

25X1

SUBJECT: Lebanese Situation

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Distribution:

10 - DCI
1 - DDI
1 - ADDI
1 - NIO/NESA
1 - D/NESA
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1 - C/NESA/AI
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1 - Chrono

DI/NESA/AI/L (22 Sep 88)

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Talking Points for the DCI

22 September 1988

Lebanese Situation

The Lebanese Christians again blocked the latest attempt to elect a new President. The Speaker of Parliament has called for another try one hour before President Gemayel's term expires tomorrow.

--Another Christian delegation is going to Syria for talks.

--We believe that Army Commander Awn and militia leader Ja Ja will prevent an election unless the Syrians make concessions.

Beirut radio says President Gemayel will appoint Pierre Hilu, a Christian parliamentarian, interim Prime Minister today.

--If true, this would repudiate Gemayel's promise to Syria to make Mikhail Dahir Prime Minister and would spark a violent reaction.

The security threat to US personnel is already escalating and remains unpredictable.

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--Press reports from Beirut note isolated shelling incidents and skirmishes along the border between Muslim and Christian Beirut.

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